To bring about objectivity in the selection of TV serials and feature films, Doordarshan has set up Committees with which eminent non-officials are associated. In the case of sponsored serials, a 3-tier system has been introduced comprising a Preliminary Committee, the Selection Committee and an Appeal Committee. Non-officials members are associated with the Selection Committee as well as Appeal Committee to insulate against the possibility of any individual aberration. Similarly, the Committees for selection of feature films have been re-constituted to include knowledgeable non-officials. The selection is not based on the opinion of any individual and the decisions are taken collectively on merits in a fair manner.

Production of Hormones, etc.

*248. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether hormones, immunoproteins and enzymes and other proteins are now being produced or are likely to be produced in India, using genetic engineering; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is the position of Research and Development units in India in the above areas of endeavour ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir; none of these is produced in India using genetic engineering.

(b) R&D Work has been recently initiated for developing technologies for the production of hormones, immunoproteins and enzymes through genetic engineering. The results of the successful development of technology for the specific products are likely to take some more time as the infrastructural facilities needed for this type of R&D in the country is being established. Institute of Microbial Technology (IMT)-Chandigarh, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)-Bombay, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)—Delhi, National Institute of Immunology (NII)—Delhi, and Indian Institute of Science (IISc)—Bangalore, are some of the Institutions which have undertaken R&D work in the areas of hormones (HCG, Insulin), Immunoproteins and Enzymes.

Permission to purchase Technology from abroad

*249. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been considering the question of permitting the Indian companies to make outright purchase of technology from companies abroad; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision thereon, indicating the norms and guidelines to be adopted by Government in permitting such technology imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Indian companies can purchase technology from abroad on a selective basis where need has been established, technology does not exist within the country and the time taken to generate technology indigenously would delay the achievements of the development targets.

The payments relating to such purchase of technology could be in the form of royalty on production or lump sum payment involving an outright purchase of technology or a combination of both. As a general rule, Government will dis-

courage payment for foreign collaborations in the form of 100 per cent lump sum payments. In cases where both royalty and lump sum have to be paid, the lump sum payment should not exceed 50 per cent of the total.

The principles governing the acquisition of technology also specify that there shall be a firm commitment for absorption, adaptation and subsequent development of imported know-how through adequate investments and Research and Development to which importers of technology will be expected to contribute.

Losses of Regional Rural Banks

*250. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whetre the Regional Rural Banks throughout the country are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the accumulated losses of those Banks as on the 31st March, 1987 and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken so far to improve the performance of the regional rural banks and to reduce their losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) NABARD has reported that out of 191 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for which information is available upto December 1986, 141 RRBs have shown accumulated losses of Rs. 89.6 crores. Some of the important factors responsible for losses in most of the RRBs are extensive branch expansion in interior rural areas, low business per branch and increase in establishment costs.

(c) The Government had set up a Working Group on Regional Rural Banks and have in pursuance of its recommendations, taken a number of decisions for improving the viability of the RRBs. Important among them are indicated below :—

(i) Sanctioning of additional share capital to identified RRBs with satisfactory track record in a phased manner;

(ii) Lowering of interest rates on refinance provided by sponsoring banks to RRBs;

(iii) Investment of funds for SLR requirements in securities of better yield;

(iv) Enlargement of the scope of lending by RRBs;

(v) A more active role by sponsoring banks in fund management, staff training and internal audit; and

(vi) Close monitoring to improve productivity.

Show cause notices served to cigarette manufacturers

*251. SHRI J. P. GOYAL :
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently served show cause notices to certain cigarette manufacturing companies in the country for the evasion of excise duties;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the names of the cigarette companies on whom such show cause notices have been served and the estimated amount of excise duty involved in each case; and

(c) what follow up action has been taken by Government for the expeditious disposal of the cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The Government have during the period 1-1-1986 to 31-7-1987, served a number of show cause notices on cigarette manufacturing companies for evasion of Central Excise duties. The details of these show cause notices alongwith the names of the companies are given in the Statement. (*See* below). All efforts are being made by the adjudicating officers to speedily dispose of these cases. The progress of these cases is also being monitored by the Central Board of Exise and